

Approved Minutes
New Durham Water Quality Committee Meeting
September 21, 2022 at 6:30PM
New Durham Town Hall

Present: Fred Quimby, Bill Meyer, Penny Meyer, Keith Barnard, Mike Gelinas, and Casey Buell

Absent: Maureen Knepp

Fred called the meeting to order at 6:31PM.

Minutes from the July 20,2022 meeting were previously distributed. Bill moved and Casey seconded a motion to approve the minutes as written. The vote in favor was unanimous.

New Business:

1. Fred announced that the applications for State grants to treat variable milfoil were sent out last month and that he had completed and sent the application back to NH DES. Keith announced that he was still willing to assist Fred on milfoil issues if needed.
2. Fred led an update on the current status of the s319 stormwater BMPs at the end of South Shore Road. The Town has a signed contract with R&D Paving to complete the paving before October 31, 2022, and calls have been made to Cameron's SOD Inc. informing them that trees and shrubs may be planted any time now. There was a brief discussion about trees and Fred explained that Eric Reitter, our stormwater engineer, advised against planting any deciduous trees around the retention pond due to fallen leaves filling the pond. Fred changed that order to planting rhododendrons around the pond. There was also a brief discussion about wildflower blooming at the site. Fred said that the blooms would be better in the Spring of 2023 according to Cameron's. Bill who visited the site thought it looks pretty good this year with purple flowers in bloom.
3. Fred introduced the idea of starting another s319 grant to complete the intersection with Powder Mill Road in 2023. If we decided to do this, we will need approximately \$10,000.00 put in this year's (2023) budget for engineering expenses to complete the grant. Bill moved and Penny seconded a motion to approve up to \$10,000.00 in this year's budget for development of an s319 grant application in 2023. The vote in favor was unanimous.
4. Fred updated the situation of variable milfoil in Jones Pond and the fact that herbicide from Marsh Pond did not kill most of the Jones Pond milfoil. We had planned on this and budgeted funds for a later application of herbicide in Jones Pond only. This was completed without incident on September 6, 2022.
5. Fred turned his attention to the 2023 Budget from the Water Quality Committee. This year we will be asking for the prorated amount of \$22,333.33 to be deposited into the Variable Milfoil and Water Quality CRF for future contracts for herbicide and Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) operations. We generally apply herbicide only once every three years with DASH pulling in the other years. The average for a three-year cycle of funding is \$22,333.33. Fred also explained that this year we spent \$2412.00 for water testing for deep sites, river sites, town ponds and Cochecho River tributary sites. Fred checked with Bob Craycraft and confirmed that the costs for total phosphorus (TP), total nitrogen (TN) and chlorophyll-a testing would not change in 2023. Fred thus recommends holding the budget the same as last year but this year

focusing the tributary studies on Merrymeeting Lake rather than the Cocheco River. MML tributaries have not been surveyed since 2018, and it is time to look at them this year. Fred also recommends we ask for \$2000.00 for public education which we have spent considerable time discussing this year. There has been talk about developing a Facebook contact with the public and Fred thought we may want to start an email newsletter repeating proven information, created by the NH DES, as it relates to preserving the quality of water in New Durham. Bill moved and Casey seconded a motion to approve all the recommendations Fred mentioned in the NDWQC 2023 Budget. The vote in favor was unanimous.

6. Fred presented Bob Craycraft's summary of all water quality testing in 2022. There was some issue about the test on Hoover Bridge (Jones Pond) on August 1, 2022 and that this value was probably 37.5ug/L rather than 102 ug/L. Otherwise there were no unexpected results. In general it looks like TP values are decreasing in the Merrymeeting River (but not Coffin Brook) and that values in Shaws , Chalk, and Marchs Ponds were very stable. Casey brought up an excavation site in the northern section of New Durham which seemed unprotected from erosion. Mike Gelinas knew about this site and Fred recommended getting a water sample for TP.

Old Business: Fred mentioned that Chrissy Morell has a locked space on the Birch Hill Camp grounds where Fred's boat can be stored until next year. The boat is now in storage there.

Keith and Mike were worried that they may appear as non-members because they had not taken the oath of office yet. Fred explained that neither of them had an expired term yet and could go down and take the oath anytime at the Town Clerks office, both of them had been reinstated as members at the last Board of Selectmen's meeting..

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Quimby, chairman, NDWQC